

SECTION 6

RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP NOTICES AND ALERTS

Two notices/alerts were sent out to memberships of environmental groups either by regular mail or e-mail urging comment on the Pinedale Anticline Project DEIS. The Wyoming Wildlife Federation mailed an alert to its membership (see Attachment 1) and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, Sierra Club and the Wyoming Outdoor Council collectively e-mailed notices to their memberships (see Attachment 2). Over 100 comment letters (mostly via e-mail) were received in response to these notices/alerts. These individual comment letters are not printed in the FEIS because they repeat the issues in the notices/alerts generally verbatim. Rather than respond to these comments time and time again, BLM is instead responding to the notices and alerts. A list of the names of individuals commenting in response to these notices/alerts is included as Attachment 3.

Responses to the Wyoming Wildlife Federation Alert (Attachment 1)

Comment 1: The RP Alternatives analyze a limit on the number of rigs in the PAPA at 5. The alternatives would result in less impact but would extend these impacts over a longer period of time.

Comment 2: Section 5.2 of the DEIS addresses withholding leasing in certain areas until the Pinedale RMP is updated. As was concluded in the DEIS, an alternative based on limiting the number of well pads to no more than 1/section is neither technically or economically feasible (see Section 2.3.3 of the DEIS).

Comment 3: Centralized production facilities is a production option evaluated in the RP Alternatives.

Comment 4: These recommendations are standard stipulations which would be imposed on all exploration and development activities on public lands and will be implemented regardless of which alternative is selected in the ROD (see Appendix A, DEIS).

Comment 5: Recommended wildlife monitoring is specified in Section 4.19.5 (page 4-167) of the DEIS.

Comment 6: As is stated in the DEIS, this suggestion is beyond the authority of the BLM. Such restrictions could only be imposed by state and local governments. BLM can only recommend that these protective restrictions be imposed on non-Federal lands.

Greater Yellowstone Coalition, et al. E-mail Notice (Attachment 2)

Comment 1: See response to Letter 23, Comment 4 – Greater Yellowstone Coalition and Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance and Comment 2 of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation alert (above).

Comment 2: Pad drilling and centralized facilities are evaluated as part of the RP Alternatives.

Comment 3: As was concluded in the DEIS, an alternative based on limiting the number of well pads to no more than 1/section is neither technically or economically feasible (see Section 2.3.3 of the DEIS).

Comment 4: These recommendations are standard stipulations which would be imposed on all exploration and development activities on public lands and will be implemented regardless of which alternative is selected in the ROD (see Appendix A, DEIS). Recommended wildlife monitoring is specified in Section 4.19.5 (page 4-167) of the DEIS.

Comment 5: Such a team would be established as part of the AEM planning process (see Appendix F of the DEIS).

Comment 6: See Wildlife Mitigation Opportunity 10, page 4-167 of the DEIS.

Comment 7: This recommendation is currently being evaluated by the Transportation Planning Committee.

Comment 8: The BLM cannot require that the operators use electric compression. Enforcement of state and Federal air quality standards is the sole responsibility of the WDEQ/AQD. The need for expansion of the wilderness lakes study area will be addressed as a part of the AEM planning process (see Appendix F of the DEIS). Modeling predictions show that there will be no significant impacts to the wilderness lakes as a result of the Pinedale Anticline Project emissions. See response to Letter 102, Comment 1 – John F. Spahr.

Comment 9: As is stated in the DEIS, this suggestion is beyond the authority of the BLM. Such restrictions could only be imposed by state and local governments. BLM can only recommend that these Federal restrictions be imposed on non-Federal lands.

ATTACHMENT 1

YOU CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR PUBLIC LANDS!

The BLM is proposing up to 900 new natural gas wells will be drilled near Pinedale in the coming years. Leasing is complete and exploration has already begun with new roads, well pads, waste pits, and pipelines each month desecrating formerly pristine public lands. The BLM is asking for your input before February 4th on how this world-class wildlife and scenic area should be industrialized.

Write, phone, or e-mail Bill McMahan, manager of this huge project, @ BLM, 280 Hwy 191 N., Rock Springs, WY 82901;
phone # 307-352-0256; E-mail: Bill.mcmahan@blm.gov.

And tell him:

- It's imperative that this project be scaled back to mitigate its tremendous negative impacts; | 1
- Discontinue new leasing & limit well pad density to no more than 1 per square mile; | 2
- Require production facilities be centralized; | 3
- Restrict industrial and vehicle activities during critical wintering periods for deer and antelope, and also during spring nesting for sage grouse and birds of prey; | 4
- Require that industrial operators fund wildlife monitoring studies for the life of the project; | 5
- Request that industry operators implement the same protections on the private land leases as on public lands. | 6

THIS IS NOT MULTIPLE USE OF YOUR PUBLIC LANDS –
IT'S DOMINANT USE AND COULD BULLDOZE YOUR PUBLIC LANDS VALUES!

-- MAKE YOUR WISHES KNOWN BY FEBRUARY 4TH --

FOR MORE INFORMATION PHONE THE WWF-JACKSON OFFICE
@ 307-733-1707 or e-mail: ljdorsey@aol.com

ATTACHMENT 2

Help Reduce the Full-Scale Industrialization of the Green River Basin

Please respond to the BLM's draft plan for Oil and Gas Development by February 4

A dense web of powerlines, pipelines, waste pits and roads could eventually cover a huge portion of the Green River Basin south of Pinedale, Wyoming if the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proceeds with its plan to increase oil and gas development in the area. With almost two-thirds of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem open to oil and gas development, energy companies want to pierce the western flanks of the Wind River Range with as many as 900 new natural gas wells on almost 200,000 acres.

This latter day GOLD rush is just part of the industrialization of southwest Wyoming where already thousands of newly approved oil & gas wells could impact air, water and wildlife. According to studies conducted in the area, roads, well sites and human presence displace antelope, deer, moose and sage grouse from their native range. The Wind River Lakes' studies conducted by the US Forest Service showed an increase of NOX in Class I waters of the wilderness areas and reduced visibility of mountain vistas. The cumulative effects of so many development projects would inevitably have long-term effects on this sensitive high desert ecosystem. In addition, by approving a development project at such a large scale, the BLM is perpetuating Wyoming's history of boom and bust economies that ultimately threaten the stability of local communities.

In its recently-released "Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Pinedale Anticline Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Project," (DEIS) the BLM admits that the project will have significant impacts on water and air quality and wildlife populations. Historically, pronghorn, elk, bison, and deer migrated through the Pinedale area between summer ranges in Greater Yellowstone ecosystem and winter ranges in the Green River Basin. The pronghorn migration through western Wyoming is the longest of any ungulate in North America save the caribou in Alaska. Once a stronghold for sage grouse populations in the West, the Green River Valley has experienced severe decline of its upland bird population.

According to the DEIS, "No technically or economically feasible level of mitigation can be applied in these areas to minimize the severity of impacts to less than significant. The only way to eliminate these impacts would be to take the lease rights granted to the lessee...." +USE FIRST SENTENCE AS A PULLQUOTE+

While it is not possible to stop the development of the Anticline, it's imperative that this proposal be scaled back to mitigate the negative impacts of the project. The BLM'S Resource Protection Alternative (RPA) starts to address conservation concerns by reducing roads and traffic, excessive use of groundwater and displacement of wildlife, but it must be improved to prevent devastating longterm effects of this potentially huge project on our natural resources.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION NOW AND WRITE the BLM by Feb. 4 to prevent the full-scale oil and gas industrialization of the Green River Basin by encouraging the BLM to choose the RPA and provide additional protection to our communities, wildlife, air and water through the following actions:

- Discontinue new leasing and lapse expiring leases in Green River Basin | 1
- Require that pad drilling be used and production facilities be centralized to minimize the cumulative effects of industrialization | 2
- Limit well density to no more than one well per square mile | 3
- Limit development and travel in the project area during critical wintering periods for deer and pronghorn. During the spring require stipulations to protect breeding and nesting areas of sage grouse and birds of prey. Require that operators fund wildlife monitoring studies for the duration of the project | 4
- Establish an interagency monitoring team (with broad and balanced stakeholder participation) to track compliance with BLM's standards and to reduce environmental effects | 5

- Require "Development Corridors" which would reduce the impacts of roads, pipelines, and powerlines. Require that powerlines be buried to eliminate electrocution of raptors and destruction of scenic views | 6
- Encourage employee carpooling to reduce traffic congestion to Tyler Street access in Pinedale | 7
- Require that operators use electric compression to minimize impacts to air quality and that no pollution limits be exceeded. Enforce state and federal air quality standards to reduce emissions and fugitive dust. Expand wilderness lakes' study in the Wind River Range to cover all potentially affected areas | 8
- Request that all industry operators implement the same resource protections on the leased private land as they are required to do on public land. | 9

PLEASE SEND OR E-MAIL your comments to the BLM by February 4, 2000:

Bill McMahan, Project Manager
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, WY 82901
bill_mcmahan@blm.gov

Tom Fry, BLM Director
Pinedale Anticline DEIS
1849 C Street NW LSB-204
Washington, DC 20240
tom_fry@blm.gov

You can also voice your comments at a public hearing scheduled for January 12, 2000 7:00 PM at the Pinedale High School Auditorium.

Sponsored by:
Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, Sierra Club, and Wyoming Outdoor Council

ATTACHMENT 3

Individuals Responding to Notices and Alerts

108. Eddie Alexander	160. Chad Hummel	212. Terry Steward
109. Joan Almond	161. Edward Janas	213. Philip Stewart
110. Edward P. Andersen	162. A. Johnson	214. Jeff Stone
111. James J. Arias	163. Michael Jubin	215. taksamit
112. Tracy Bacon	164. Thomas Juner	216. Lowell Tellers
113. R. Baily	165. Wayne Knopf	217. Mike Timm
114. William C. Baker	166. Sergei Kasakow	218. James & Sandra Unger
115. Donald Barker	167. Ted Kerasote	219. Matthew Utnik
116. Joan Bennet	168. Edward Kolsky	220. James Vanderwarf
117. Leo and Rosemary Benson	169. Chester L. Krcil	221. Mary B. Vant Hull
118. Brad Borden	170. Constance A. Lange	222. Allen & Robin Vinzant
119. David A. & Susan E. Bowers	171. Gregg Larsen	223. Don & Gwenn Wadsworth
120. Dorothy J. Bradley	172. Susan & Veldon Lauder	224. Heinz and Trudi Walter
121. John Brantz	173. Gary Lease	225. Beryl E. Wauson
122. Jack and Amy Lou Brazil	174. Tom A. Lester	226. Britt Weatherby
123. Ned Brown	175. Christine Lichtenfels	227. Jerry T. Webb
124. Liam Burnell	176. Lawrence E. Long III	228. George Weber
125. Doug Campbell	177. Steve Loose	229. Donald & Constance Whitton
126. Russell C. Case	178. Gary Lottermann	230. Dennis R. Wiebe
127. Rebecca Case	179. William P. Maloney	231. Daniel Wolf
128. Harold E. Cecrle	180. Stuart E. Mauney	232. Dennis A. Wood
129. Andrea Cerovski	181. Jazmyn McDonald	233. Gladys S. Wright
130. Jim Cewright	182. Jim McGuire	234. Dan Zeller
131. Evan Christensen	183. Stew & Mimi McMillen	235. European Auto Service
132. A. Ludlow Clark	184. Ken Meade	
133. Ron Nordberg Cody	185. Fran Measom	
134. Dave Colavito	186. Benjamin Meoak	
135. Brian Connely	187. Dick Merklin	
136. Frank L. Cucinotta	188. Neil O. and Jennifer S. Miller	
137. Dr. Charles A. Curie	189. Susan B. Miller	
138. James R. Daubenspeck	190. Sandra L. Mitchell	
139. Melissa Davis	191. Anna Monhollen	
140. Carol Deno	192. James N. Moon	
141. Patricia A. Dowd	193. L. Robert Myers	
142. Robert G. Enright	194. Katharine Newton	
143. Richard Ebel	195. Michael S. & Marlene Olin	
144. William Eddy	196. Walter A. Page Jr.	
145. John Ellis	197. Kevin L. Painter	
146. Donald L. Ferry	198. Judy Peternell	
147. Paul L. Flynn	199. Dave Potter	
148. Elbert Ford	200. John Purdy	
149. Howard Francis	201. Barry Reiswig	
150. Rex C. Fritzler	202. Clifford W. Rockhold	
151. Grant Frost	203. Barbara E. Rugotzke	
152. Walt Gasson	204. Arne Sandberg	
153. Mary C. Goodrich	205. Peter E. Schugren	
154. Herbert C. Hazen	206. Rev. Carole Shelby	
155. James Highley	207. George Shuleshko	
156. Harold C. Hilton	208. Ann Simon	
157. F. Earline Hittle	209. Harry B. Simon	
158. Richard C. Hoffeld	210. Ronn and Linda Smith	
159. Gerald Hollingworth	211. Bob Sonntag	